

Guidance for Addressing Livestock Mortality Management in CNMPs:

Both Routine and Catastrophic Mortality Management shall be addressed in all CNMPs and planned in accordance with Maine's Chapter 211 Rules for the Disposal of Animal Carcasses (April 28, 2012). Composting is the preferred disposal method in Maine. Chapter 211 requires a site and soils investigation for carcass disposal that will be performed "on or in" soils. ***For CNMPs written by NRCS, all soils investigations are to be completed by an NRCS Soils Resource Specialist.***

Catastrophic Mortality Management: Composting

Either an NRCS employee certified in Agricultural Waste Handling and Storage or a Soils Resource Specialist will determine if there is (or will be) sufficient paved area on which to compost the entire herd in the event of a catastrophic loss (existing or planned storages, HUAs, etc.) Paved areas and unpaved areas nearest to the herd location should be given first priority so that transport of carcasses is minimized. Consider that a catastrophic event may affect only a portion of a herd (such as the collapse of one livestock barn), and certain paved areas will need to be used in on-going daily management activities of the remaining herd. If this is a concern, additional on-ground field disposal site(s) may be necessary. Note that use of bunker silos may not be possible if a catastrophic event occurs when silos are full.

- 1) If there is sufficient paved area on which to compost the carcasses, no soils investigation is required. If necessary, required setbacks from resource concerns may be modified to enable the use of existing paved surfaces for a catastrophic event. Document the plan and any setback modifications in the CNMP. Send "Notification Form for Catastrophic Carcass Disposal Plan" to the State.

OR

- 2) If there is not sufficient paved area, a soil-based field site will be identified and evaluated. Site selection and evaluation will be done as part of the CNMP process, and the report will be included in the CNMP, "Notification Form for Catastrophic Carcass Disposal Plan" to the State.

Routine Mortality Management: Composting

- 1) **Farm has more than one large animal mortality (carcass) per year, or two medium, or less than 500 lbs of carcass or offal.**
 - a) If Composting Facility (Code 317) is *not* desired - a soil-based field composting site will be identified and evaluated. Site selection and evaluation will be done as part of the CNMP development process, and the report will be included in the CNMP.
 - b) If Composting Facility (Code 317) is planned, the planner will include Composting Facility in the CNMP Conservation Practices, indicate an appropriate proposed site on the Conservation Plan Map, and document in the Routine Mortality section of the CNMP that the facility will be installed. It is recommended that the site and soils evaluation be performed and included in the CNMP. However, it may be done after the CNMP is written, during the planning and design phase, as is done with agricultural waste practices. If the Composting Facility will not be installed in a short period of time, an interim soil-based field composting site should be identified and included in the CNMP.

OR

- 2) **Farm has one or fewer large animal mortalities (carcasses) per year, or two medium, or less than 500 lbs of carcass or offal. - Farm is Exempt** and is not required to have a soils investigation for a soils-based disposal site. An NRCS employee certified in Agricultural Waste Handling and Storage may work with the producer to determine if it is desirable and possible to compost mortalities on a portion of the paved waste storage facility (existing or planned).
 - a) If composting will be done in a new or existing Waste Storage Facility (Code 313), document in the Routine Mortality section of the CNMP that a portion of the facility will be utilized for this purpose as needed.
 - b) If composting will occur on unpaved ground , an NRCS employee certified in Agricultural Waste Handling and Storage may evaluate and approve a site if it meets the following criteria in the table below and Include documentation in CNMP:

Setbacks from Sensitive Areas for “Exempt “ Farms	
SOILS (determined by soil survey and professional judgment)	
Moderately well-drained or better and in an upland position without a large watershed contributing to the site.	
Min. 24 inches to bedrock (deep and very deep soils)	
Min. 24 inches to high water table	
Min. 18 inches to sand/gravel horizon	
FEATURE	SETBACK
Perennial Waterbodies @	100'
Intermittent Waterbodies @	50'
Public Water System	300'#
Private Wells (except owners)	150'+
Private Wells (owner)	100'+
Public Roads	50'
Residences (except owner)	100'+
Non Residences (except owner)	50'+
Buildings (owner)	20'
Property Lines	50'+
Wetlands of Special Significance	100'
Other Wetlands	Not Within
Significant Sand & Gravel Aquifers	Not within
10-Year Flood Plain	Not within
Slopes	8% or less

@ Setbacks shall be from the normal maximum high water mark.

+ This setback may be reduced with written permission from property owner

This setback may not be reduced.

Routine Mortality Disposal by Burial

If burial is planned, a Soils Resource Specialist must perform a site and soils investigation and Procedures for Shallow Burial are included in Chapter 211.

Other Disposal Methods

If other disposal methods are to be used, follow Chapter 211 guidance and document appropriate information in the CNMP.